

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 05623 041632Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SSO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 H-01 HA-05
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O 041602Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8293

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5623

AF/W FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, EFIN, NI (LEFVRE, LOUIS)
SUBJECT: LEFEVRE CASE

REF: (A) STATE 111916, (B) LAGOS 5274, (C) LAGOS 5621

1. IN MEETING THIS MORNING WITH CAHILL AND CLEW AT EMBASSY, LEFEVRE STRESSED THAT YUSUFU HAD FULL AUTHORITY TO RESOLVE ISSUE AND THAT EMBASS SHOULD DEMAND THAT HE DO SO ASAP. ACCORDING TO LEFEVRE, NORMAL PROCEDURE IS FOR CID TO INVESTIGATE ANY REPORTED CRIME AND DECIDE WHETHER CRIME WAS COMMITTED OR NOT. IF DECISION WERE MADE THAT CRIME HAD TAKEN PLACE, CID WOULD REFER FILE TO DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTION (DPP) IN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE FOR FURTHER DECISION AS TO WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE PROSECUTION. LEFEVRE POINTS OUT, HOWEVER, THAT HIS FILE HAS NEVER BEEN SENT TO DPP. HE ALLEGES THAT FILE IS STILL IN HANDS OF YUSUFU, INDICATING THAT YUSUFU CONTROLS THE OUTCOME.

2. LEFEVRE BELIEVES THAT LACK OF DECISION AND DEFERRED RESOLUTION OF CASE IS TO ADVANTAGE OF FMG. FIRST, THE POLICE FEEL THAT SOME BIT OF INFORMATION MIGHT EVENTUALLY FALL INTO THEIR HANDS WHICH WOULD INCRIMINATE FRED EGBE, PROBABLY THE REAL TARGET OF THE WITCH HUNT. SECONDLY, IT IS CONVENIENT FOR THE FMG TO HAVE A MURKY CRIMINAL ACTION GOING AGAINST LEFEVRE SO
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AS TO STAVE OFF PRESSURE FROM AIG'S COMPENSATION CLAIMS. HE REASONS THAT THE "LEFEVRE AFFAIR" COULD WELL CONTINUE UNRESOLVED FOR MONTHS OR YEARS TO THE SERIOUS DETRIMENT OF HIMSELF PERSONALLY AND HIS FIRM FINANCIALLY.

3. LEFEVRE IS CONVINCED THAT THE NEW HEARING DATE OF JUNE 23 WILL RESULT IN ANOTHER POSTPONEMENT IF NO STRONG USG PROTESTS

ARE LODGED BEFOREHAND. LACK OF USG ACTION, IN HIS VIEW, WOULD ENCOURAGE THE NIGERIANS TO THINK WE FLACCIDLY ACCEPT THEIR EVASIVE POSTURE. HIS PRESCRIPTION IS THAT THE EMBASSY HAMMER ON YUSUFU IMMEDIATELY, DEMANDING RETURN OF PASSPORT AND THE CLEARANCE OF LEFEVRE FROM ANY CHARGES. IF YUSUFU SHOWS RELUCTANCE, LEFEVRE WANTS EMBASSY TO CLEARLY STATE THAT FMG'S REFUSAL TO SETTLE ISSUE WILL HAVE VERY NEGATIVE VIBRATIONS. COMPANY WOULD GO TO NEWS MEDIA AND CONGRESS AND TELL ITS STORY AS FORCIBLY AS POSSIBLE.

4. WE ARE NOT SURE OF COURSE THAT INFORMATION CONTAINED IN PARA ONE ABOVE IS ACCURATE. IN ANY EVENT, HOWEVER, EMBASSY OFFICER WILL ENDEAVOR SEE INSPECTOR GENERAL YUSUF THIS WEEKEND. TO EXTENT POSSIBLE HE WILL MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ALONG LINES PARA 5 OF REFTEL B, MAKE POINT CONTAINED IN PARA 7 OF REFTEL C, AND POINT OUT POSSIBILITY OF ADVERSE PUBLICITY. AFTER THAT MEETING WE MAY BE IN BETTER POSITION TO ASSESS THE PROSPECTS.
WYMAN

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